

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been examined and have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

I. Preliminary matters

The Examiner has objected to the specification because it contains typographical errors and has objected to the title because it is allegedly not descriptive. Applicants submit that the amendments to the specification and the title overcome the objections.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,907,611 to Konno et al. (“Konno”)

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Konno. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the reference.

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 states that, when a driving device drives a plurality of holders in a holding direction, (1) at least one of the holders is configured to press, in a predetermined direction parallel to a loading plane, an information recording medium loaded on turntable, and (2) another one of the holders is configured not to press the information recording medium in any other direction, which is parallel to the loading plane and which is substantially different than the predetermined direction. The Examiner contends that the claws 36 shown in Figs. 2 to 4 of the reference correspond to the claimed plurality of holders, but Applicants respectfully disagree.

For example, in Konno, when the alleged driving device 18, 26, 34, 35, and 46 drives the claws 36 in the alleged holding direction, the three claws 36 respectively press a disc 8 in three different directions that are parallel to a loading plane of the disc 8. As such, the reference fails to disclose or suggest another claw 36 that is configured not to press the disc 8 in any other

direction, which is parallel to the loading plane and which is substantially different than a predetermined direction in which at least one claw 36 presses the disc 8.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable for at least this reason.

B. Claims 2 and 3

Since claims 2 and 3 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 4

Since claim 4 contains features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for at least similar reasons.

D. Claims 5 and 6

Since claims 5 and 6 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Newly added claims

Applicants have added new claims 7-16. Since claim 13 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 1, Applicants submit that it is patentable for at least analogous reasons. Also, since claims 7-12 and 14-16 depend upon claim 1 or 13, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/718,680

Attorney docket No. Q78548

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

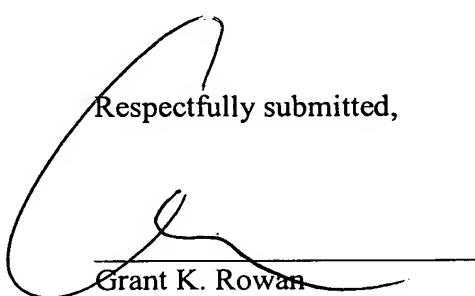
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER



Grant K. Rowan
Registration No. 41,278

Date: October 3, 2006